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Message Text

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43
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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1975
(SALT TWO-784)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1975.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
SEPTEMBER 11, 1975

MR MINISTER,

I

TODAY I WANT TO DISCUSS ARTICLE XVI OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT, WHICH DEALS WITH THE OBLIGATION OF THE SIDES TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FURTHER LIMITATION AND THE REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC ARMS.

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II

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THE SOVIET DELEGATION, ON SEPTEMBER 3, PROPOSED THAT THE SIDES ASSUME AN OBLIGATION TO BEGIN IN 1977, AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER LIMITATIONS AND POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC ARMS, BOTH BEFORE EXPIRATION OF THAT AGREEMENT, AND DURING THE PERIOD AFTER 1985. THE SOVIET DELEGATION STATED THAT THIS PROPOSAL WAS PRESENTED TO IMPLEMENT THE RELEVANT PROVISION OF THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, AND TO BUILD ON THE CORRESPONDING AGREED PROVISIONS OF THE PREAMBLE OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT. THE US BELIEVES THAT A PROVISION IN THE NEW AGREEMENT WHICH OBLIGATES THE SIDES TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FURTHER LIMITATION AND THE REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC ARMS WILL PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PREAMBLE TO THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT CONTAINS AGREED LANGUAGE WHICH AFFIRMS THE INTENTION OF THE SIDES TO UNDERTAKE IN THE NEAR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS TO LIMIT FURTHER AND TO REDUCE STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. CONFORMING TO THIS PROVISION OF THE PREAMBLE, THE US BELIEVES THAT ARTICLE XVI SHOULD SPEAK OF "REDUCTION" RATHER THAN "POSSIBLE REDUCTION."

WITH RESPECT TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ARTICLE XVI, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL 1977. HOWEVER, THE US BELIEVES THAT THE SIDES NEED NOT NECESSARILY WAIT UNTIL 1977 TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS. RATHER, THE US BELIEVES THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FURTHER LIMITATION AND THE REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC ARMS SHOULD COMMENCE AT AN EARLY DATE AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT WE ARE NOW NEGOTIATING. SUCH NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONCLUDED EXPEDITIOUSLY, AND THE RESULTING LIMITATION AND REDUCTION SHOULD TAKE EFFECT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE THEREAFTER.

IN ADDITION, AS PROVIDED IN THE SECOND SENTENCE OF THE US PROPOSAL FOR ARTICLE XVI, THE US BELIEVES THAT THE PARTIES SHOULD ALSO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE OBJECTIVE OF CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS WELL IN ADVANCE OF 1985 ON AN AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE NEW AGREEMENT UPON ITS EXPIRATION.

BASED UPON THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS AND THE PAST DISCUSSIONS
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BETWEEN THE SIDES ON THIS ISSUE, THE US PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING WORDING FOR ARTICLE XVI OF THE JOINT DRAT TEXT:

"THE PARTIES UNDERTAKE TO BEGIN ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS AT AN EARLY DATE AFTER THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THIS AGREEMENT, BUT NOT LATER THAN IN 1977, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING THE FURTHER LIMITATION AND THE REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC ARMS AT THE EARLIEST

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POSSIBLE DATE. THE PARTIES ALSO AGREE UPON THE OBJECTIVE OF CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS WELL IN ADVANCE OF 1985 ON AN AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THIS AGREEMENT UPON ITS EXPIRATION."

III

IN MAKING THIS PROPOSAL DEALING WITH FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, I WANT TO REPEAT THAT, WITH REGARD TO WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS "FORWARD-BASED NUCLEAR SYSTEMS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THIRD COUNTRIES" IN THE SOVIET STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 9, THE US POSITION IS THAT THESE SUBJECTS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CONSIDERATION IN OUR CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE US DOES NOT AGREE TO THEIR INCLUSION IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF THE US PROPOSAL FOR ARTICLE XVI.

IV

MR. MINISTER, I BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSAL I HAVE MADE TODAY SHOULD PROVIDE A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY FORMULATION FOR ARTICLE XVI.
JOHNSON

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